the assessing officers have been deleted by Appellate Authorities. In order to ensure that undue demands are not raised, Commissioners of Income Tax are supervising and monitoring the assessment proceedings.

Clean Note Policy

1717. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the clean note policy of Government;

(b) whether surprise checks by Reserve Bank of India have revealed that certain banks are not adhereing to its 'clean note policy;' and

(c) if so, the action taken against these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The "Clean Note Policy" announced in January, 1999 by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) envisaged making available fresh and clean notes to the people. The banks have been given directive by RBI to do away with stapling of all kinds of notes, stop writing on notes and issue only clean notes to the public. Inspections are being conducted by RBI to ensure the compliance and action like, debiting the amount of stapled notes to the bank, is taken.

Appreciation of Rupee

1718. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rupee has significantly appreciated against American dollar during the last one year;

(b) if so, whether it has affected India's exports; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) In terms of monthly average exchange rates, the Rupee appreciated by 2.3% against the US Dollar during 2002-03, and by 2% during 2003-04, (April—June).

(b) and (c) Despite the appreciation of the Rupee against the US Dollar, the value of merchandise exports (in Dollar terms) during April-May, 2003-04 increased by 11.12% over April-May, 2002-03. During